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Mc 20-01

SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (S-IEE)

PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA:

Activity Name: North Aqaba Wastewater Treatment Plant

Country/region: Jordan

Start Date: 11/30/2019

End Date: 11/29/2020

Life of Activity Amount (\$): \$5 Million

IEE Prepared by: Dani Newcomb

Date: 11/7/2019

Amendment: No

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: ☐ Negative Determination with Conditions: ☐

Positive Determination: ☒ Deferral: ☐

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this S-IEE amendment is to:

1. Add a "Positive Determination" for the threshold determination for the North Aqaba Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) activity.

The Water Resources and Environment (WRE) Programmatic IEE (P-IEE), as amended in March 2019, includes "construction and/or expansion of water and wastewater infrastructure, such as treatment plants, pump stations, distribution systems." The P-IEE as amended in December 2018 added a recommendation of a "deferral" for all new activities. As such, this S-IEE established the threshold determination as "positive" for USAID's contribution to the construction and civil works for the North Aqaba WWTP activity.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

USAID has been instrumental in the initial construction and later expansion of the North Aqaba WWTP. In 1986, USAID funded the construction of Phase I that utilized waste stabilization ponds (natural treatment) to treat 9,000 m³/d of influent. In 2005, USAID funded \$37.5 million of the \$43 million Phase II rehabilitation and expansion. This included expansion of extended aeration treatment to increase the capacity of the plant by an additional 12,000 m³/d.

The Second Expansion (Phase III) has been under construction since November 2017 and is expected to be completed in June 2020. Phase III is based on a design, build and operate (DBO) contract that ensures equal consideration to construction and operation aspects, sustainable and efficient service due to linking the remuneration and penalty with clear performance indicators, retention of private sector specialized expertise and balanced risk allocation. The scope of Phase III includes replacing the waste stabilization ponds of 9,000 m³/d capacity with new conventional activated sludge wastewater treatment of 28,000 m³/d capacity, to yield the net

average capacity to 40,000 m³/day. The construction supervision for Phase III is currently funded by USAID under Water Sector Infrastructure Project. The existing North Aqaba WWTP has been effectively managed, operated and maintained by AW since 1986. Phase III will be operated by the DBO contractor for 5 years up to 2025 with monitoring and inspection by AW.

The North Aqaba WWTP is critical for Aqaba city. It provides improved and reliable services to treat the generated wastewater flow. This enhances and sustains environmental and investment conditions that support development efforts in a water scarce area by producing 13,000 m³/d of treated flow (75% of generated wastewater) for various agricultural, residential, tourism and industrial activities and providing a continuous and reliable source of revenue for AW.

USAID investment in North Aqaba Phase III is strategic as it will further the strong legacy of USG support for the treatment plant as well as protect water resources and helping Jordan meet its water scarcity challenges. Ensuring sustainable water supply is a priority of the GOJ, and a key factor in ensuring Jordan's stability.

While construction of the Phase III expansion is 85 percent complete, there have been financing issues that have led Aqaba Water to seek additional funding to complete the project. In the absence of USG support, completion of the project is in jeopardy which is why USAID will provide up to \$5 million to fund the rest of the outstanding construction and civil work.

CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Climate Risk Screening for the WRE PAD was conducted in December 2018 which is after the initial commencement date for the construction of this activity in November 2017. Therefore, this activity is exempt from climate risk screening.

REVISIONS

If during implementation, project activities are considered outside of those described in this document, an amendment shall be submitted. Pursuant to 22CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new activities are added and/or information becomes available which indicates that activities to be funded by the project might be "major" and the project's effect "significant," this determination will be reviewed and revised by the C/AOR of the project, and submitted to the Mission Environment Officer and Bureau Environmental Officer for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared. It is the responsibility of the C/AOR to keep the Mission Environmental Officer and the BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of the S-IEE.

LIMITATIONS

This IEE does not cover activities (and therefore should changes in scope implicate any of the issues/activities listed below, a BEO-approved amendment shall be required), that:

1. Affect endangered species;
2. Result in wetland or biodiversity degradation or loss;
3. Support extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);
4. Promote timber harvesting;
5. Provide support for regulatory permitting;

6. Result in privatization of industrial or infrastructure facilities;
7. Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, cleanup of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials and /or pesticides (cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act); and
8. Procure or use genetically modified organisms.

**APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION –
North Aqaba Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase III**

Office Director (acting)
Clearance



Dani Newcomb

11-10-19

Date

Program Office
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Matthew Sumpter

11/10/19

Date

D/ Mission Environmental Officer
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Farid Musmar

11/12/19

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Resident Legal Officer
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Ian Robertson

Nov. 12, 2019

Date

Regional Environmental Advisor
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by e-mail

Anan Masri

11/8/2019

Date

Deputy Mission Director
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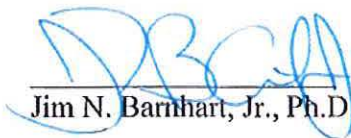
Margaret Spears
RALPH V. KOEHRING

11/12/2019

Date

APPROVAL:

Mission Director




Jim N. Barnhart, Jr., Ph.D.

11/13/19

Date

CONCURRENCE:

Bureau Environmental Officer



John Wilson

11/15/2019

Date

Approved: ☒

Disapproved: ☐

**APPROVAL OF PROGRAMMATIC INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION -
WRE UMBRELLA PAD - Amendment 1**

Office Director
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Jessica Morrison

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Farid Musmar

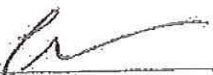
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11/08/2019

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